

An apparatus is disclosed to feed strand (30) through apertures (214) in bearing plates (60) and bulkheads (202) in a mold (62). A collar(210) can be attached to a rod(208) for limited motion relative thereto, including rotation relative the rod about its elongate axis. The end (96) of the strand (30) is received in a cylindrical receptacle (232) in the collar and the strand can then be used to push the rod, collar and strand through the apertures. A strand feeder rack (56) can be used to simultaneously ~~fed~~ feed a number of strands.

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.(original) An apparatus for passing strand through apertures in members in a mold, comprising:

a first portion forming a rod having a diameter sized to pass through the apertures and having a first end and a second end;

a second portion forming a collar at the second end of the rod, the collar defining a receptacle to receive an end of a strand, the collar having a diameter sized to pass through the apertures wherein the collar is mounted to the rod to permit limited angular and parallel misalignment of the elongate axes of the rod and collar.

2.(currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the collar is mounted to the rod permitting rotation of the collar relative to the rod about ~~an~~ the elongate axis of the collar.

3.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a bolt mounting the collar to the rod while permitting the collar to rotate relative the rod about the elongate axis of the collar.

4.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the collar has a receptacle portion having a cylindrical exterior surface and a forward portion having a tapered exterior surface.

5.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the collar defines an interior cylindrical surface forming the receptacle for the strand and a passage opening through a forward end thereof.

6.(canceled) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the collar is mounted to the rod to permit limited angular and parallel misalignment of the elongate axes of the rod and collar.

7.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 further including a bolt, the bolt having a head received in the collar, the bolt threaded into the rod to permit limited movement of the collar relative the bolt.

8.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rod has a length of about 15 feet.

9.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the collar has a receptacle of about 0.513 inches diameter.

10.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a strand feeder rack and a track, the strand feeder rack slidable on the track from a position adjacent a strand and a second position adjacent the mold, the strand feeder rack having at least one notch to receive the end of the strand, the strand feeder rack moving the end of the strand to the second position adjacent the mold when the strand feeder rack moves to the second position.

11.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the rod and collar are integral.

12.(original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first end of the rod is tapered.

13.(canceled) A method of feeding strand through apertures in members in a mold, comprising the steps of:

placing a collar over an end of the strand, the collar mounted to a rod for limited motion relative thereto, the rod having a forward end;

inserting the forward end of the rod into a first one of the apertures; and

pushing the rod, collar and end of the strand through the apertures with the strand.

14.(canceled) The method of claim 13 wherein the step of placing the collar over an end of the strand includes the step of frictionally engaging an inner cylindrical surface of the collar over the exterior surface of the end of the strand.

15.(canceled) The method of claim 13 further comprising the step of placing the end of the strand into a strand feeder rack and subsequently sliding the strand feeder rack along a track from a first position to proximate the mold to push the rod, collar and end of the strand into the apertures of the members.

16.(canceled) The method of claim 15 wherein the step of sliding the strand feeder rack includes the step of using a come-along to slide the strand feeder rack.

17.(canceled) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of placing the free end of the strand into a notch in said strand feeder rack.

18.(canceled) The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of placing the free ends of additional strands into the strand feeder rack and placing a collar over an end of each of the additional strands, the collars mounted to rods for limited motion relative thereto, and subsequently pulling the strand feeder device along a track from a first position to proximate the mold to push the rods, collars and ends of all of the strands into apertures of the members simultaneously.

19.(original) An apparatus for passing strand through apertures in members in a mold, comprising:

a first portion forming a rod having a diameter sized to pass through the apertures and having a first end and a second end;

a second portion forming a collar at the second end of the rod, the collar defining a receptacle to receive an end of a strand, the collar having a diameter sized to pass through the apertures;

the apparatus further comprising a bolt, mounting the collar to the rod, permitting the collar to rotate relative the rod about the elongate axis of the collar and permitting limited misalignment of the ~~elongated~~ elongate axes of the rod and collar as the rod and collar pass through the apertures in members in the mold.

20.(original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the collar has a passage through which the shaft of the bolt passes, the passage being sufficiently larger in dimension than the shaft of the bolt to permit limited misalignment of the axes of the rod and collar in both an angular fashion and a parallel fashion.

21.(original) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the collar has a tapered surface, the bolt having a head, the underside of the head of the bolt being ground to remove the sharp edge on the underside of the head of the bolt to allow the bolt to move more freely relative the tapered surface.